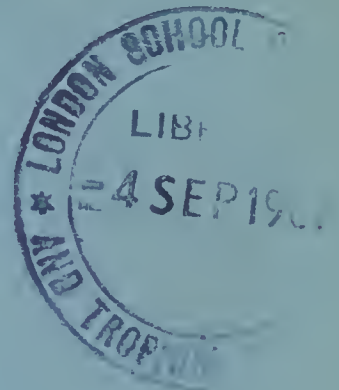


9 - NOV 1960



WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1959

together with the

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Cllr. T. R. Mott, C.C.

Members:

Cllr. R. S. Brown.

Cllr. J. Dalley.

Cllr. B. Lewis (ex officio) until October 28th, 1959.

Cllr. D. J. Maidment, J.P. (ex officio) from
November 2nd, 1959.

Cllr. A. E. Moss.

Cllr. S. J. Soar (ex officio).

Cllr. S. E. Smith.

Cllr. A. Strathearn.

Cllr. R. A. Tweed.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E. H. C. WELSHAMS, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.T.P.H.E.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

H. BATTESON, A.R.S.H. (resigned August, 1959).

D. C. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed October, 1959).

Clerical Assistants:

R. G. CHAPMAN (Senior).

M. G. BLIZZARD (Junior) (H.M. Forces from February, 1959).

MRS. B. E. FRANKLIN (Part-time) from June, 1959.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

August, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district for 1959.

As in previous years I have to thank Dr. Miller Wood for supplying certain information with regard to the health services run by the Essex County Council.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated 1959 population is 8,970 an increase of 80 over 1958.

There were 148 live births compared with 126 in the previous year.

A total of 97 deaths was recorded, 9 more than in 1958 and the corrected death rate works out at 10.8 per 1,000 estimated population which compares with the England and Wales figure of 11.6.

The maternal mortality rate was nil but there were 3 infant deaths giving an infantile mortality rate of 20.3 per 1,000 live births. Two of these deaths were associated with prematurity, and the other was from haemorrhagic disease. Analysis of the general mortality figures shows the usual pattern. The largest groups being cardio vascular disease with 40, and malignant disease with 14. There were 10 deaths from pneumonia, 6 from bronchitis and 3 from influenza.

Notifiable Infectious Disease.

The total of 200 is more than double that of the previous year. The majority were measles 162, and the months of highest incidence were June and July. There was no case of Poliomyelitis and I am glad to see that the figure for whooping cough is still low, only 4 cases being reported.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

These services were carried on as usual by general practitioners and by doctors of the Essex County Council. There was little change in the numbers immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough, but good

progress was made in the Poliomyelitis vaccination.

While it would be unwise to draw conclusions from results observed in a comparatively small unit like Witham it can be said that Public Health authorities throughout the world are satisfied as to the value and safety of Poliomyelitis vaccination.

Full statistical information will be found later in this report. I would draw your attention to Table B from which you can see at a glance the comparative incidence of Infectious Disease over the past 5 years. If you turn up the similar table in my 1955 report you can go back to 1950.

Environmental Hygiene.

This field has been fully covered by your Chief Public Health Inspector, so I will content myself to merely drawing your attention to two red lights. The first concerns housing. Council building slowed up, only 14 Council houses being completed during the year. But the total number of applicants for Council houses increased from 133 in 1958 to 158 in 1959. The second red light concerns sewage. Although the Council's three sewage disposal plants all produced satisfactory effluents during the year, the dry weather flow to the Witham and Silver End plants has increased considerably. This means that little safety margin remains and that new development will soon necessitate extensions of existing works.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

It was not necessary to remove any one under the provisions of this Act.

It is again a pleasure to thank the Chairman and all members of the Public Health Committee for their support, and for the real interest they have taken in the work of the Public Health Department. To your Chief Public Health Inspector I say thank you for his stirring work and to other officers of the Council for their willing co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit, in conjunction with the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of the work of your Public Health Department for the year 1959.

The Department has been affected during the whole of the year by shortage of staff which has continued largely into 1960. As a result some difficulty has been experienced in carrying out all the routine duties, but the essential inspections have been well maintained.

In housing it must be recorded that the Council's 5-year programme for clearance of 57 unfit houses by the end of 1960 is unlikely to be fulfilled. While it is true that the necessary survey and inspection work has been interrupted, another contributory factor has been the slowing down of Council house building, resulting in greater difficulty in rehousing families displaced. The lack of new houses has also led to an increase in the waiting list of Council house applicants, reversing the satisfactory trend of recent years. The demand for aged persons' accommodation shows no sign of abating. The new Standard Improvement Grants for the modernisation of older types of dwelling have found favour with local property owners, though not to the extent which could be desired.

The district services have been maintained and have proved adequate during the year. It has become apparent however, that further development of the district will call for major extensions of sewer and sewage disposal services, and that improved mechanisation of the refuse service is required.

Food hygiene control is reasonably satisfactory, except for meat inspection. One new food industry, poultry packing, has developed to major proportions during 1959, and this also will require the Department's close attention.

Concluding, I would like to thank the Council for continued support and encouragement, and the Clerk and other officers of the Council for their ready co-operation and assistance. I must also pay tribute to the work of my own staff, officers and workmen, who have again supported me so ably.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. C. WADHAMS
Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,329
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,970
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,931
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£124,161
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£485

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	145	83	62
Illegitimate	3	1	2

Total live births - 148

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	16.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	2.03
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.12	...	...	...	18.5
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	...	16.5

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	19.9
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	...	...	20.7
Total live and still births - 151				

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Total infant deaths - 3

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	20.3
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	20.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	20.3

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births.)	...	20.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births).	... ..	39.7
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births ..		22.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	... ..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	... ..	Nil

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
97	61	36

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	... ..	10.8
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.00	... ..	10.8
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	... ..	11.6

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1959.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

<u>Cause of Death</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	1	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	2	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	4	4
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	1	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	12	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	-
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	6	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	2	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	7	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	4	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	-	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	1	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	10	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	3	-
35.	Suicide	...	...	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-
All causes				61	36

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following centres during the year:-

WITHAM Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

				<u>Attendances</u>
Child Welfare	1st and 3rd Wednesdays	2 p.m		741
Minor Ailments	1st Thursday	9 a.m		85
Dental	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	10 a.m (By appt.)		1916
Ante-Natal	1st Thursday	10 a.m (By appt.)		
Speech Therapy	Every Friday	10 a.m		331

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

Child Welfare	1st and 3rd Friday	2 p.m	249
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RIVENHALL Church Hall.

Child Welfare	3rd Monday	2 p.m	190
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(ii) Home Help Service.

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office,
75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service.

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services.

The Essex County Council provide a Laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

(i) Chest Clinics. Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics. These are held every 4th Tuesday afternoon at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street, Witham. Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Black Notley Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE A.

DISEASES	TOTAL NOTIFIED	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	5	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-
Measles	162	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	11	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	6	3	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	4	-	-
TOTALS	200	5	1

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TABLE B.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	5
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	2	-	2	5
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1
Infective Hepatitis	8	1	-	3	-
Measles	12	3	95	76	162
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	7	7	6	1	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	4	1	1	2	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	2	-
Scarlet Fever	2	1	3	1	11
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	10	8	3	6	6
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	-	-	1	1
Whooping Cough	3	101	6	3	4
TOTALS	51	125	116	97	200

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH.

DISEASE.	Total Notified.											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	5	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-
Food Poisoning.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	162	-	-	2	1	6	57	81	14	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	6	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary.	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
TOTALS.	200.	2	2	2	3	9	58	86	19	2	11	3

DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 -10	10-15	15 -20	20 -35	35 -45	45 -65	65 and over.	Age Unknown
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
Encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1
Food Poisoning.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	162	1	11	15	17	21	92	2	-	1	-	1	-	1
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	11	1	1	-	-	-	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	200	2	13	15	18	23	104	4	-	4	2	8	5	2

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives particulars of the 6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the year.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 35 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65 years	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-

Of these, one case was re-notified on taking up residence in this district.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year.				Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year.			
By General Practitioners		By County Council Staff		By General Practitioners		By County Council Staff	
<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
(a) 94	(a) 95	30	18	33	15	93	125
Totals: 1959 - 124 1958 - 113				Totals: 1959 - 126 1958 - 140			

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH.

Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme.				Records of combined diphtheria pertussis Immunisation received.	
By General Practitioners		By County Council Staff			
<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
81	62	11	8	(b) 14	(b) 19
Reinforcing injections	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1958</u>
	1	-	3	1	-

Note: Figure (b) is included in Figure (a).

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Number vaccinated during the year	76	98
Number re-vaccinated during the year	25	17

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Number of 1st injections given during the year	560	824
Number of 2nd injections given during the year	523	804
Number of 3rd injections given during the year	1289	

HOUSING.

The Council's building programme, resumed in 1957, made small progress during the year. Only 14 new Council Houses were completed, while none was under construction at December 31st. The comparable figures for private house building were 38 houses completed and 117 under construction.

The number of new houses erected in the Urban District since the end of the war is as follows:-

By the local authority: 636 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows).
By private enterprise: 162

The only additional Council building contract arranged was for 8 old persons' bungalows at Rivenhall, a project which has been considerably delayed but which should be commenced early in 1960.

The number of applicants for Council Houses was 158 at the end of 1959, compared with 133 at December 31st, 1958. This figure included the following categories:-

Ordinary list	64 applicants.
Aged persons	44
Single persons	4
Supplementary list	7
Exchange list	7
Engaged Couples list	27
Industrial Workers list	<u>5</u>

158

It will be seen from these figures that the demand for ordinary Council Houses again increased, while the demand for old persons' accommodation remained fairly static. It is thought, however, that the figure of 44 shown above does not fully represent the need for the latter type of dwelling, and the demand will no doubt continue to increase. In a review conducted by the Council during the year it was shown that between 60 and 70 old persons' units could be absorbed. To ease this position the Council have instructed their architects to prepare a scheme for some 30 additional bungalows.

In addition, the Council have investigated the possibility of building houses for sale at an economic price, with a view to offering these houses, in the first instance, to the present tenants of their Council estates, and thus make available some of the existing accommodation for applicants on the above list. The Council have in mind the development of a

small estate of about 80 houses for this purpose, and if the demand should warrant this, it is hoped the site works will commence during 1960.

Private estate building gained some momentum during the year. The number of small building projects was extended, and a large private estate of nearly 300 houses was commenced. The indications, noted in 1958, of a trend towards extensive private residential development were again apparent during 1959. It is obvious, however, that this trend cannot materialise until either the land (or some of it) now zoned for "overspill" development is released, or further land not yet included in the development plan, is made available.

Witham being ideally situated for expansion, considerable growth of the town during the coming years must be anticipated. Whether this will comprise local authority building for "overspill" population, or private enterprise estate building, or both, will depend on development policy. It is to be hoped that whatever form it takes it will be sufficiently balanced with new industry to prevent the district from becoming just another "dormitory town".

Pre-War Council Houses. The Council have continued with schemes for the modernisation of these. 30 houses in process of improvement at December, 1958 were completed during 1959, and an additional 7 provided with hot water systems, bathrooms and kitchen improvements.

Within recent years the following improvements have been effected:-

Pail closet conversions to W.C.'s and sewer connections:	52 houses.
Hot water systems to baths, sinks and new lavatory basins:	52 houses.
Back addition kitchens with hot water systems, and bathroom conversions:	6 houses.
Back addition bathrooms with hot water systems:	12 houses.
Kitchen and bathroom additions with hot water systems:	4 houses.
Internal W.C.'s, hot water systems, and improved cooking and washing arrangements:	30 houses.
Internal W.C.'s, hot water systems, and improved cooking and washing arrangements, with bathrooms:	7 houses.

The Council's programme covering nearly 200 pre-war houses aims at their complete modernisation by the end of 1961.

Housing and Public Health Acts.

Progress with regard to sub-standard private houses was continued. The following data shows the work undertaken during the year.

- (a) Clearance Orders: 2 Orders (5 houses) confirmed by Minister.
2 Orders (6 houses) made: awaiting confirmation.
5 houses vacated.
4 houses demolished.
- (b) Demolition Orders: Nil.
- (c) Closing Orders: 3 Orders made (one in respect of underground rooms).
- (d) Voluntary undertakings by owners: Nil.

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition: occupied	9
vacant	6
Houses subject to Demolition Orders, still occupied:	1
Houses and flats subject to Closing Orders:	4
Parts of houses subject to Closing Orders:	
(a) Flats	1
(b) Underground rooms	8
Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let:	7

In 1955 the Council submitted its Clearance Programme for the next 5 years to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. At that time a total of 57 houses was listed as unfit and suitable for clearance. Since then 35 have been demolished, but as a result of further surveys a number of other properties have been added to the list, and at the end of 1959 there were 33 houses remaining to be dealt with. Progress during 1959 was seriously impeded by shortage of staff, and of accommodation available for rehousing. It is therefore unlikely that the present list of unfit properties will be dealt with by the end of the five year period, that is by 1960.

Improvement Grants: Housing Acts 1949 - 1954:

During the year a number of applications for grant were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant during the past 5 years are as follows:-

	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>
Submitted:	10	8	6	3	1
Granted:	9	8	5	2	1
Refused:	1	-	1	1	-
Withdrawn:	-	3	1	-	-
Schemes completed:	-	12	4	8	1

In addition, under the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959, 8 applications were received for Standard Grant in respect of 9 houses. All these were approved, and 2 were completed before the end of the year.

It is hoped that the Standard Grant scheme will go a long way to achieve the improvement of older types of dwelling which the Discretionary Grant scheme has so far failed to effect. It is a matter of regret that resistance on the part of owners to Discretionary Grant aid still persists, as there are many properties worth modernising, but which require more costly constructional work than can be provided under the Standard Grant scheme.

The Rent Act, 1957.

A few enquiries have been received, but the Act appears to have become a dead letter so far as the Urban District is concerned. Since the Act came into force only 7 applications for certificates have been received in all, but the majority of rents have nevertheless been raised within the limits allowed by the Act without objection on the part of the tenants, even in cases where disrepair has been known to exist. As a means of improving the repair standard of rented property the Act has been a failure

The following Table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1959.

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:

(a)	Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	126
(b)	Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(c)	Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	51

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers | 42 |
| (b) Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority or its Officers | 25 |

3. Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts, 1936 - 57:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 1 |
| (b) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice | 1 |
| (c) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 3 |
| (d) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (e) Number of undertakings accepted | Nil |

4. Number of dwellinghouses demolished:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) In pursuance of Clearance Orders | 3 |
| (b) In pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |
| (c) Voluntarily by Owners | Nil |

5. Overcrowding:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Houses found to be overcrowded | Nil |
| (b) Overcrowding abated | Nil |

WATER SUPPLY.

Supplies to the Urban District mains remained the same during the year: the South Essex Water Company's supply from the Abberton impounding reservoir and the Council's Bradwell Springs supply (deep spring). Silver End and Rivenhall are fed by the Bradwell Springs undertaking, while the remainder of the Urban District receives a mixture of the Bradwell and South Essex supplies, both of which undergo chloramination at the source.

The Bradwell Springs undertaking, purchased in 1954, was maintained satisfactorily and without major incident, at the increased daily output of about 380,000 gallons.

The South Essex supply is used to implement the Bradwell source to current daily requirements, and the Council holds a reservation with the South Essex Company ensuring adequate water for present needs.

Quality and quantity have been uniformly satisfactory throughout the year and satisfactory pressure for all normal domestic and industrial purposes has been maintained. The Bradwell supply has a slight corrosive tendency due to its high carbon dioxide content, and it is proposed to undertake experimental work in an effort to combat this. Both supplies are very hard in character.

Consideration of proposals, arising out of the Spens Report, for the establishment of Joint Water Undertakings in the County continued during the year. The Council's suggestion that the Witham undertaking should be included in the proposed North-Essex Joint Water Board has been accepted.

Sampling:

Samples of mains supplies are submitted regularly for chemical analysis. Typical reports on the chemical quality of the two supplies are as under:-

(a) Bradwell Springs Supply: Sampled at source on 23.6.59.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals. It has however a reaction slightly on the acid side of neutrality on account of which it will tend to show corrosive characteristics. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive, Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard."

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes, although a somewhat higher pH would be advantageous for the avoidance of corrosion."

2nd July, 1959.

Signed. Roy C. Hoather.

(b) South Essex Supply: Sampled at W.J.Bush & Co., Ltd., on 2.9.59.

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The hardness of the water is moderate and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. The

degree of organic impurity is very moderate and its organic quality is of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

11th September, 1959.

Signed Roy. C. Hoather.

As previously reported, the hardness of both supplies is such that softening would undoubtedly prove a boon to all consumers. The resulting economy would not be felt by the water undertaking, which would have to meet the considerable cost with an increased water rate, but by the individual consumers in the form of lower costs for fuel, soap detergents, household and industrial softening agents etc. An investigation of the relation between these two factors would probably show the project to be worthwhile.

Samples for bacteriological examination of all public and private supplies are also submitted, at frequent intervals, both as a routine check on the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of purity and whenever any alteration, modification or interruption of services occurs. A summary of the year's reports on all supplies is given below:-

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. <u>Mains Water.</u>			
Chemical	5	-	5
Bacteriological	23	-	23
2. <u>Other Supplies.</u>			
Chemical	1	-	1
Bacteriological	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>21</u>
Totals.	<u>43</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>50</u>

No unsatisfactory reports were received on mains water, but a bacteriological sample of the water from the Bradwell Springs pond received an adverse report. This was not unexpected. Care is always taken to ensure that the pond water does not gain access to the public supply.

The 6 other unsatisfactory bacteriological samples, taken from private sources, were from two well supplies. In one case, the owner installed micro-filtration equipment with satisfactory results. In the second, the water was not needed for human consumption, and a warning was issued as to its unsuitability for this purpose.

House Connections etc.

Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District	2931
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply	2888
Estimated population so served	8833
Number of separate dwellings connected during the year	52
Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe	13
Estimated population so served	42
Remaining houses served by shallow wells or springs	30
Estimated population so served	95

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

3" 200 feet.

All new mains are super-chlorinated by Council's staff before being put into use.

Water Consumption and Future Requirements:

Total water supplied by:

1. Bradwell Springs:

(a) to Silver End 34,491,477 gallons.

(b) to remainder of Urban District...103,984,523 gallons.

2. South Essex Water Company 30,562,000 gallons.

3. ex Braintree R.D.C.Main (Bradwell) Nil

4. Braintree Road supply Nil

Total consumption 169,038,000 gallons.

Average consumption per head per day:

Domestic demand 29.97 gallons.

Trade demand 21.66 gallons.

Total consumption per
head per day. 51.63 gallons.

The average consumption shows an increase of 2.59 gallons per head per day over the previous year. The steady increase in consumption maintained over the past thirteen years has not yet levelled off as was expected. The proportion of trade demand is already high, and while new industries are needed in the district, it may be difficult to encourage any which are very large water users.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A further 48 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. The following table shows the drainage facilities in use in the Urban District as reviewed at December 1959:-

Houses connected to main sewer systems	2,788
Houses drained to septic tank systems, cesspools etc.	114
Houses drained to ditches	23
Houses without drainage	<u>6</u>
Total	<u>2,931</u>

Of the 143 properties not connected to the sewers, very few are capable of connection. Almost all of them are outlying private and agricultural properties, for which no economic sewerage scheme appears to be possible. Of the houses in the last two categories, 12 are condemned and some of the remainder scheduled for demolition, or improvement to cesspool drainage. There will then remain about 130 dwellings permanently in need of the Council's cesspool emptying service. This provides free emptying three times annually for domestic cesspools, with additional emptying when required, on repayment. The rechargeable emptying service is also available to industrial and agricultural premises not connected to the sewer system.

Sewer systems:

There are four main drainage systems in the district, two serving the Witham town area at high and low levels, and one to serve each of the communities of Silver End and Rivenhall.

With the exception of one small section, all the systems operate by gravitational flow to the respective sewage works, though most of the sewage has then to be pumped to the head of the treatment plant. The Witham and Silver End systems are both liable to surcharge at times of heavy rainfall. The Witham low level system, to which has been connected the greater part of the post-war estate development, suffers especially in this respect.

Houses drained in Combination:

Difficulty is frequently encountered with the many combined drainage systems serving the older portion of the town. Many of these are badly constructed, difficult to trace and almost impossible of access. By virtue of Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, most of them are public sewers maintainable by the Council at the expense of the owners whose properties they serve. Whenever defective conditions are found, the

Council undertakes the necessary repair and improvement work, subsequently allocating the cost among the owners concerned.

Modern private estate development will involve large numbers of houses in different ownerships being drained in combination by private sewers. A number of these already exist, and others are being constructed. For these new private sewers the respective owners, and not the Council, are responsible, unless the Local Authority makes a declaration of vesting under the Act to adopt them as public sewers. In view of the difficulty, in future years, of effecting proper maintenance of these lengths by the numerous individual owners concerned, it would be preferable for the Council to insist, at the planning stage, that these systems should be constructed as public sewers, and adopted by them on completion.

Sewer Extensions:

There were no extensions to the Council's public sewers. A contract for the laying of a new trunk sewer from the Council's Industrial Estate to the Witham Sewage Works has been made, and work is to commence during 1960. This sewer is designed to take not only the industrial development flows, but will be capable of extension to the north-east part of the town to relieve the existing sewer system, and to take additional flows from anticipated development in that area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three owned by the Council and one administered by the Ministry of Works. The three Urban District Sewage Works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall and the fourth plant treats sewage from the National Assistance Board's Hostel for Displaced Persons at Rivenhall Aerodrome Camp.

WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS.

A description of these works, with the designed capacity of 250,000 gallons per day D.W.F. was given in the report for 1957, its first year of operation. During 1958 and 1959 the plant maintained a satisfactory standard of purification. In contrast, however, to the excessive storm flows of 1958, 1959 proved to be a drought year. The plant has therefore demonstrated its efficiency at both extremes of weather conditions. Nevertheless, the lowest dry weather flow recorded on any one day in 1959 was some 15,000 gallons more than on the lowest day in 1958, which is indicative of the steadily increasing dry weather flow to these works. The present dry weather flow to the works is about 280,000 gallons per day, an overload of 12%. Although this has not yet affected purification standards, the safety margin is undoubtedly narrowing and any further extensive development will necessarily involve consideration of additional treatment measures.

Operation and maintenance of the plant is necessarily expensive because of the large amount of pumping which has to be done, and the widespread layout of the works. The drought conditions were favourable to good sludge drying, and the second of the large sludge lagoons was under-drained before re-use. Tests were conducted with a de-watering machine being developed in an adjoining town, but the results were disappointing. It is proposed to resume the trials after further laboratory work and modification of the machine by the makers. There is no doubt that the perfection of an economic, mechanical process for drying sludge would eliminate one of the most expensive, unpleasant and intractable aspects of sewage treatment.

Little trouble was experienced from offensive smells produced in sludge drying, except during the early summer. Lime dosing, to raise the alkalinity of the sludge, and the spraying of the sludge beds was maintained until the winter, as a precautionary measure.

Negotiations concerning the crossing of the sewage works area by the proposed Witham by-pass were continued with the Essex County Council, the Essex River Board, and the Hanningfield Water Joint Managing Committee. By the end of the year agreement had been reached on the diversion of the River Brain and the Council's access road to allow a single bridge crossing of both. The Council also approved in principle a proposal for the humus tank area and effluent outfall to be brought west of the by-pass line when the plant is extended, and thus to avoid the difficulty of maintaining parts of the works on both sides of the trunk road.

Farmland:

The Council continued the cultivation of their land attached to the Witham Sewage Works. The land in question is that originally used by the old Witham Local Board of Health during the last century for sewage disposal by land irrigation. It was let to a farmer for a number of years, but was reclaimed by the Council in 1947, when it became apparent that some of it would be required for works extension, for which it will all eventually be required for the ultimate development of the town. Of the 28 acres involved, 8 are taken up by the widespread nature of the sewage treatment plant. The remaining 20 which is under cultivation is divided into 8 portions, only one of which is large enough to be classified as a field. This, comprising 14 of the 20 acres, will be cut in two and reduced by the proposed Witham by-pass. In addition, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of completed refuse tipland have been cultivated.

The crops grown during 1959 were wheat, barley, runner beans, broad beans, and lucerne. All were to some extent affected by the drought, the barley failing completely. After making an appropriate deduction for administration costs, profit on the season amounted to £67. 13. 9d.

The cultivation of this land, apart from contributing directly, though in a small way, to reduction of sewage disposal costs, also has an unseen value in that it enables ready disposal of the large quantities of sewage sludge produced. Raw bulk sludge, as removed from drying beds, is not favoured as fertiliser by farmers, because of its slow fertilizing action, its labour requirement for distribution, and its content of weed seeds. More and more authorities are inclining to the view that an area of land for sludge disposal is an economic asset to sewage disposal.

The financial return from this farmland during the twelve years since the Council resumed cultivation is shown in the following table:

Season	Crops	Profit	Loss
1947 - 48	Wheat, potatoes	63. 7. 10	- - -
1948 - 49	Barley, potatoes	294. 1. 4	- - -
1949 - 50	Wheat	2. 19. -	- - -
1950 - 51	Clover, mangold, flax	- - -	58. 7. 7
1951 - 52	Flax, wheat	128. 19. 3	- - -
1952 - 53	Wheat, clover, flax	335. 3. -	- - -
1953 - 54	Wheat, flax	212. 19. 10	- - -
1954 - 55	Wheat, flax	229. 14. 5	- - -
1955 - 56	Wheat, runner beans	279. 4. 4	- - -
1956 - 57	Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows.	- - -	193. 3. 5
1957 - 58	Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows	104. 15. 8	- - -
1958 - 59	Wheat, barley, runner beans, broad beans, lucerne	67. 13. 9	- - -
		1718. 18. 5	251. 11. -

Net profit £1467. 7. 5d

Net annual profit £122. 5. 7d

Annual rental prior to 1947 £33. 12. 6d

SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant, serving the Silver End community of about 2,000, maintained its normal high standard of purification during the year. Increased domestic and trade flows involve overloading at peak periods, while in wet weather vast quantities of surface water are received with the sewage, and the plant has no means of dealing with such flows. The Council's Consulting Engineers have compiled data on which a scheme of works extension can be prepared when the anticipated development of the area is more fully defined. Trade discharges from a light metal processing industry, which comprise more than 25% of the dry weather flow, have been brought under control by agreement with the company concerned under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act.

The average dry weather flow to the works is about 100,000 gallons daily, giving a theoretical retention period of 12 hours in the settlement tanks, and dosages of 110 gallons and 335 gallons respectively per cubic yard per day to the primary and secondary filters.

This plant, like the Witham one, occupies a large area for its size. This, and the fact that all sewage on the Silver End system has to be pumped to the head of the works to receive treatment, involves somewhat higher maintenance costs than would be incurred in a gravity fed works occupying smaller and more easily manageable site.

The effluent from the works discharges into a very small stream, which affords little dilution, and which itself discharges into a large private lake. It is, therefore, essential to maintain a high degree of purification to avoid any polluting effect.

RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS.

This modern plant which has been operating since 1953, maintained a satisfactory record throughout the year. It now receives its full designed dry weather flow of 18,000 gallons per day, which was based on the planning policy at the time of its construction, when little additional development of the village was anticipated. It is emphasised that any major alteration of that policy cannot be provided for without extension of the sewage works. Already, two additional sludge lagoons have had to be constructed to deal with present sludge output.

RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant, constructed during the war to serve the Aerodrome, has treated the sewage from displaced persons occupying the camp under the control of the National Assistance Board. The plant is run and maintained by the Ministry of Works. As the camp is now being closed, the plant is

not working to capacity and will probably fall into disuse. It is unfortunate that it is not situated where it could be utilised economically for the treatment of part of the district's sewage.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENTS.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Witham Sewage Works	23	6	29
Silver End Sewage Works	4	1	5
Rivenhall Sewage Works	4	3	7
	31	10	41

Of the 6 "unsatisfactory" samples taken at Witham, only 3 failed to reach the Royal Commission standard, and that by narrow margins. They occurred at the Spring period during which the filters were disgorging accumulated humus. The other three showed minor deviations from the desired chemical characteristics of good effluent. Of the four remaining "unsatisfactory" samples from Silver End and Rivenhall, three were taken during the Spring flush, and one (from Rivenhall) after some unexplained interference with the working of the plant, probably due to trespassers.

Because of the cost of laboratory analysis, this is used mainly for the control of the Witham plant, but elementary chemical tests are frequently applied to samples from various points of the three disposal works to check variations in the character of the flow, the efficiency of different stages of purification, and the relative quality of the effluents.

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

The control of trade discharges from local industries has been described fully in previous reports, and has been maintained throughout 1958. For the size of the district, large quantities of different chemical and organic wastes are discharged to the sewer systems. Further industrial wastes will come under control when the new industrial estate sewer is laid.

Liaison is maintained with factory managements, the Essex River Board, and the South-Essex Waterworks Company, and joint investigations of the problems have led to mutually satisfactory solutions. It is proposed to review the whole question of trade waste reception and treatment in conjunction with a scheme for sewage works extensions. Some of the industrial wastes are already subject to agreement between the Companies concerned and the Council under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, but there are a number of discharges which require investigation to establish the extent of prescriptive rights still obtaining to the firms in question. Furthermore, it is already obvious that dealing with trade flow in future will contribute largely to the capital and maintenance costs of sewage

disposal, and the review will need to provide for adequate reimbursement of the Council on this account.

Samples of trade effluents are regularly submitted for laboratory examination, and reports were received on 9 such samples during the year. In addition, samples of raw sewage showing any marked abnormality are also submitted. During 1959, one or two minor infringements to agreed limits were found and rectified, but no seriously harmful discharge was encountered.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection:

The collection of house refuse for the whole of the Urban District has been maintained during the year, providing a weekly collection from all parts of the area.

Two standard side-loading vehicles are employed on collection of refuse, of 8 and 11 cubic yards capacity respectively. The smaller of the two, purchased in 1946, is still giving good service, and it is hoped to keep the vehicle in operation until 1960-61 before replacement.

During recent years refuse has become increasingly bulky, though of lower density. This, with the continued residential development, has resulted in very full vehicle loads, and in some instances has necessitated alterations in schedules. It is therefore considered that a larger capacity vehicle will shortly be needed to provide economic collection in the built-up areas.

Disposal:

Controlled tipping has continued throughout the year on the Council's land adjoining the River Blackwater, where marshland is being made up. Tipping in this area will add some 10 acres of useful agricultural land to that now farmed at the adjoining sewage works. This tip area is now almost full, but it will require much additional covering material before final levelling and cultivation can be done. The acquisition

of a future tip site has now become essential. Further marshland meadow, liable to flooding, is available by the rivers Brain and Blackwater, and the Council has obtained planning approval for the use of some of this land for the purpose. Acquisition and operation of the new tip site is dependant, however, on the alterations in the Brain valley which will result from the proposed Witham by-pass. It may, therefore, be some time before tipping can commence on it. For use in the meantime, permission has been obtained to fill a small disused gravel pit adjoining the sewage works. The Council also have in mind the possible reclamation of other low-lying riverside land by tipping, to provide public open space within the town area. These schemes require the acquisition of a mechanical digger/loader, which it is hoped to purchase during 1960. By this means, economic tipping can be maintained, adequate cover material can be supplied at all times and the general efficiency of the disposal service improved.

No further consideration was given to the possible installation of a refuse separation and sludge composting scheme, as it would be uneconomic for the present size of the district. However, in the event of the rapid development of the town, the advantages of such a process would be manifold.

SALVAGE.

Collection of salvage is effected in conjunction with house refuse collection, with the exception of a special collection which is made weekly from trade premises. Figures for the 1959-60 financial year, given in the following Table shows an increase of £158 in income. A profit of £469 was made, after payment of bonus amounting to £487. 15. 2d to the collection staff.

	1958-59			1959-60		
	Weight			Weight		
	tons.cwts.qrs.	£. s. d		tons.cwts.qrs.	£. s. d	
Waste Paper	171. 17. 2½	1458.13. 1		197. 4. 1½	1618.17. 7	
Bones	8. 1½	2.10. 3		- - -	- - -	
Rags	5. 6. 0½	106. 2. 6		6.17. -	136.19. 7	
Sacking	1. 5. 1	6. 5. -		1. 4. 3	6. 3. 6	
Scrap Iron	40. 5. 2	190. 4. 5		23.19. 3	76.10. -	
Non-ferrous metal	1. 14. 1	155.16. 5		2. 3. 1	218. 8. 7	
Jars and bottles	1. 8. -	15. 7. 6		2. 2. -	36.10. 9	
Miscellaneous		2.12. -			2. - 7	
TOTALS	222. 5. 0½	1937.11. 2		233.11. 0½	2095.10. 7	

The increased return from salvage is considered very satisfactory. It has been influenced by a number of factors, not all favourable, as under:-

- (a) The quota restriction imposed by the purchasing mills on newsprint was lifted. This with the increased use of paper and fibre board for packing purposes enabled the total collection to be raised by more than 15%.
- (b) Bones became unsalvageable. This incurred no real loss and eliminated the most unpleasant aspect of salvage recovery.
- (c) There was reduction in both collection and market value of scrap iron.
- (d) An increase in the recovery of jars and bottles was achieved.

Salvage materials fluctuate widely in demand and value, but the salvage scheme is still very worthwhile financially and from the aspect that it prevents a great quantity of light bulky material from having to be disposed of at the refuse tip. The rate of collection compares most favourably with the national average, but much salvageable material still goes into dustbins.

Cesspool, Gulley Emptying and Sewer Flushing.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptier during the year:-

Domestic emptyings (free service):	162 cesspools, 182 loads, 182,000 gallons.
Rechargeable work:	330 cesspools, 487 loads, 487,000 gallons.
Trade Waste removal:	<u>565 loads, 565,000 gallons.</u>
	<u>492 cesspools, 1234 loads, 1234,000 gallons.</u>

Attention is drawn to the increasing amount of work performed by this vehicle, now in its tenth year of service. The above figures are about 20% above those for 1958, and the stage has now been reached when the rechargeable work done almost pays the full annual cost of the machine and the wages of the two men employed on it.

The liquid wastes removed are disposed of at the Council's refuse tip by the adoption of a special tipping routine to form large lagoons on the tipland, as previously described. This method has proved satisfactory and economic.

In addition to the above work, the sewer systems of the district were flushed on three occasions and the road gulleys on all district roads were cleansed on three occasions.

The cesspool emptier is also used on any required emergency work on sewers and sewage disposal.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A total of 3510 visits and inspections were made during the year, as follows:-

Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	330
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ice-Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sampling: Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Sewage Effluents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
and Trade Wastes								
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Streams and Watercourse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains and Sewers: Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cesspools, Septic Tanks, Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	247
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1189
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Stables and Pig Sties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	212
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

In addition, a total of 1166 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties.

Nuisances, etc., on Books, with Number of Notices served.
(Public Health Acts only)

Number of Notices outstanding, 31st December, 1958:	10
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year:	60
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year:	2
Number of Notices complied with during the year:	60
Number of Notices outstanding on Books, 31st December, 1959: ...	12

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

Dampness, rising and penetrative	12
Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing etc.	11
Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.P's etc.	11
Defective ceilings and walls	12
Defective doors, windows and floors	12
Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues	10
Defective W.C. structures	8
Defective fuel stores	2
Drainage defects	29
Inadequate means for disposal of surface water	6
Defective yard surfaces	4
Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies ...	2
Absence/defective condition of dustbins	36
Offensive accumulations and conditions	1
Offensive smells/noises/fumes	4
Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons	2
Infestations: Rats and Mice	220
Vermin and Insects (including woodworm)	27

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year, a total of 78 visits were paid to factories and workshops throughout the district, which figure does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as Factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. At the end of 1959 the number of outworkers on the register was 267 comprising

	<u>Witham U.D.C.</u>	<u>Other Local Authorities.</u>
Glove Manufacturers	38	222
Seed Merchants	7	-

Notifications of outworkers employed in other districts are sent to the Local Authorities concerned.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Further survey work was done during the year at 1 factory and 1 statutory certificate was issued.

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Act, 1937, are given in the Table below:-

Factories Act 1937

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	3	3	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	51	70	1	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers).	5	5	Nil	Nil
	59	78	2	Nil

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:-

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.	by Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) -					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	-

SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the normal duties of the local authorities, under the Shops Act 1950, the Council has accepted delegation from the Essex County Council (the major Shops Acts authority) of powers of enforcement of Sections 3, 4 and 5 of Section 38.

28 visits were paid to shops during the year, apart from purposes other than Shops Act administration. The following matters were dealt with:-

Routine inspections	28
Structural defects	2
Washing facilities	2
Sanitary accommodation	1
Drainage	2
Shop reconditioning and modernisation	1
Redecoration	1
New shops equipped to requirements	6

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The Council's caravan site, for 12 trailer caravans, remained occupied during the year. On this site, plots are let to occupiers at reasonable rentals. Hard standing, water supply, W.C accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities are provided. The site is lighted at night during street lighting hours.

Demand for plots has been continuous and the site has served a useful purpose, but the Council decided during the year that no further lettings would be made, in order to effect the vacation of the site in 1962, when the lease expires. Without decrying the reasons for this policy, it must be stated that the use of caravans as dwellings is increasing, while the housing shortage is far from being overcome. Caravan and camping sites present problems for local authorities, but they are a feature of the modern community, and their hygienic control is most easily exercised when they are Council-owned.

Where private sites are licensed by the Council, they require to be satisfied as to hard standing, water supply, sanitary accommodation and waste disposal facilities. One such site remained licensed during the year and 5 licences were issued for the stationing of individual vans at various parts of the Urban District.

The seasonal arrival of gypsy type vans, and those of casual agricultural workers, occurs each year. Usually these vans remain for short periods and control of them is necessarily limited to supervision and prevention of nuisance.

INSECT PESTS.

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Woodworm	...	...	...	2
Flies	...	...	...	1
Ants	...	...	...	1
Wasps	...	...	...	23
Carpet Beetles	...	...	...	1

Minor infestations are dealt with by the issue of insecticides and advice to the householders concerned. Difficult cases are dealt with by the department on a rechargeable basis.

In addition, the Council's refuse tips are periodically treated to destroy crickets and other insects. Insecticides used are D.D.T (5%) and gammexane, both in liquid and powder form, cyanide preparations and pyrethrum compounds.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council conducts its own Rodent Control service, employing a specially trained part-time operative for the purpose. Liaison is maintained with the pest control department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Details of the year's work are as follows:-

Inspections made		216
Treatment visits		802
Infestations found:	Mice	17
	Rats: Minor	201
	Major	1
	Reservoir	1
Bodies recovered:	Mice	72
	Rats	738
Estimated kill:	Rats	1087

The sewer systems at Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall were treated with satisfactory results. The degree of infestation was found to be so slight as to be insignificant.

A free domestic treatment service has been in operation for some years. This enables prompt action to be taken to deal with incipient infestations. Commercial and industrial infestations are dealt with on a rechargeable basis.

The operative is also responsible for inspection to ensure that the proper fencing of ricks is carried out during threshing operations, and that adequate measures are adopted to deal with any rodents disturbed during such work.

From 1st October, 1958, when the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food discontinued the national disinfection contract service for agricultural properties, the Council has joined with the neighbouring Braintree Urban and Braintree Rural Councils in providing a similar service. The administration of the scheme has been done by the Braintree Rural District Council, the constituent authorities levying the agreed contract charges, and being debited with their share of the overall cost. There is also a private agricultural rodent disinfection service operating in the area. There is thus no longer any excuse for the infestation of farms and land, which when uncontrolled can become a reservoir for the repeated re-infestation of townships in rural areas. The adequate inspection of all agricultural properties and undeveloped land is a major problem however.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection.

Only one slaughterhouse was operating during the year. None of the district butchers found it necessary to use local slaughtering facilities, which confirmed the Council's decision in 1954 that no additional facilities were required in the Urban District.

The unsatisfactory position prevailing since 1954 continued throughout 1959. The one operative slaughterhouse, previously described, is a privately owned property, situated unsuitably in the centre of the town and used to conduct a large wholesale slaughtering and meat marketing business serving North and East London and the larger Essex towns. The size and nature of the business make it undesirable in its present situation. Moreover, as none of the meat produced is consumed locally, it cannot be said to serve any requirement of the Urban District. It is estimated that the output of the slaughterhouse serves a population of over 50,000.

Previous comments on the reasons why 100% meat inspection has been impossible since decontrol of the meat industry, still hold true. A considerable amount of overtime is worked on meat inspection, but the irregular slaughtering hours, and heavy overnight and weekend killing, are more than the department can cope with. In addition, staff shortage and greatly increased slaughtering output have made matters worse during 1959. 26,737 animals were killed during the year, the highest number yet recorded, and 9,183 more than in 1958. Although the inspection percentage dropped from 59.1% to 44%, the number of animals inspected (11773) was actually higher than that for any previous year. In respect of this work performed mainly for the benefit of other areas, the Council received by way of Government Grant the rather meagre sum of £113.

The maintenance of the slaughterhouse was again in question during the year. The standard of hygiene has been inconsistent and on occasion far from satisfactory. Further, the layout, structure and equipment of

the business do not lend themselves to good food handling methods. Frequent changes of staff and the employment of casual labour are other factors which have operated against hygienic control. Some improvement has been achieved with the operation of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958 and the Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations 1959, and the proprietor was notified in March, 1959 of the requirements which would have to be observed when these Regulations become fully enforceable. It will be for the Council to consider however, how far it is possible for this slaughterhouse of unsatisfactory design, construction and situation to fulfil the legal requirements to the extent needed to justify its continued use for the preparation of meat for human food.

Comparative Slaughtering Figures 1938 - 1959.

	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>
Cattle	722	2337	1878	1262	1592	1651	1775	2032
Calves	135	861	719	987	1705	1761	1585	1470
Sheep and Lambs	2438	3704	3625	2875	5629	6153	5657	12267
Pigs	2266	3328	6256	7372	2991	4744	8537	10968
Goats	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	<u>5561</u>	<u>10231</u>	<u>12479</u>	<u>12496</u>	<u>11917</u>	<u>14309</u>	<u>17554</u>	<u>26737</u>
Percentage inspected	100	100	81	42.6	51.4	54.6	59.1	44

Licensing: Slaughterhouses and Slaughterman:

At 31st December, 1959, the following licences were in operation

Slaughterhouses: 1 Slaughtermen: 4

The following Table sets out the particulars of the animals slaughtered and of inspection and condemnation.

	Cattle excluding Cows and Bulls	Cows and Bulls	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	639	1393	1470	12267	10968	26737
Number inspected	267	697	716	5569	4524	11773
<u>All Disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	9	4	5	7	25
Weight in lbs. condemned	Nil	3983	250	242	361	4836
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	94	326	8	450	34	912
Weight in lbs. condemned	1589	4740	39	1269	203	7840
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	35.2	48	1.67	8.1	0.9	7.9
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	4	1	-	-	5
Weight in lbs. condemned	-	1866	100	-	-	1966
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	32	173	2	-	26	233
Weight in lbs. condemned	555	4741	10	-	317	5623
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with Tuberculosis	12.0	25.3	0.4	-	0.57	2.02
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally con- demned	-	-	-	-	-	-

No horses were slaughtered within the Urban District during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The local sanitary authority is now responsible only for the supervision of distribution and the registration and licensing of dairies, distributors and dealers. The following local registrations and licences are in force under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 1953:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested.</u>	<u>Pasteurised.</u>	<u>Sterilised.</u>
Dairies	3	3	2
Dealers	4	4	2
Supplementary Dealers	2	2	-

No unsatisfactory conditions were found during 1959, and samples of milk retailed in the district were reported by the laboratory as satisfactory.

ICE - CREAM.

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is effected by the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947. The number of registrations at 31st December, 1959 was as follows:-

Manufacturers	Nil
Vendors only	37
Registered premises	37

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Every make of ice-cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. 35 such samples were taken during the year and the results were as follows:-

Bacteriologist's description	Fruit Ices	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading				Total
		I	II	III	IV	
Satisfactory	15	17	1	-	-	33
Passable	2	-	-	-	-	2
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	17	17	1	-	-	35

These results indicate the general high standard now prevailing in the manufacture and distribution of these commodities.

HYGIENE OF FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

The number of premises where food is prepared, stored or retailed, is as follows:-

Restaurants	9
Factory and School Canteens	11
Manufacturing Butchers	8
Bakehouses	3
Fried Fish Shops	3
Retail Butchers' Shops	7
Other Retail Food Shops	49
Retail Wet Fish Shops	3
Licensed Premises and Clubs	22

In addition, a number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham.

All are subject to inspection, 94 visits having been made during the year. The Council has adopted Byelaws for Food Handling and Distribution and the Public Health Department maintains contact with all food handlers on matters of food hygiene. Difficulty in maintaining good hygiene at large transport cafes catering for heavy summer coach trade is still experienced. A number of warnings have been issued during the year, but formal action was not necessary. Relations with the trade have been good and conditions can be regarded as generally satisfactory.

All food shops were asked during the year to display notices drawing customers' attention to the undesirability of smoking in food shops. Some traders demurred, but a number were pleased to co-operate in this way.

The Table below shows defects and other conditions required to be remedied during the year:-

Design and layout of new shops	3
Structural defects	5
Defective/Inadequate sink drainage facilities	4
Defective/Inadequate hot water and washing facilities	2
Modernisation of kitchens	2
Defective and inadequate sanitary accommodation	2

Sampling:

No formal samples were taken under Section 91 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, but a number of informal samples have been submitted at the request of members of the public. In no case has adulteration or unfitness been confirmed. The Sampling Officers of the Food and Drugs Authority (the Essex County Council) have kindly supplied the following Table showing results of formal sampling in the Witham district during 1959.

Commodity	Taken in Witham Urban District	Taken outside Urban District on Premises of Wholesalers who supply Shops within Urban District.
Almonds(Ground)	-	1
Baking Powder	1	1
Butter	2	7
Buttered Sweets	-	19
Christmas Pudding	-	1
Coffee Mixture	1	4
Coffee Essence	-	1
Cooked Meat	-	5
Cream	-	2
Cream Soups	1	2
Cream of Tartar	-	1
Curry Powder	-	1
Fish Paste	-	4
Flour - Self Raising	-	2
Flour - Plain	-	2
Fruit Juice (Canned)	-	1
Fruit (Dried)	-	2
Gelatine	1	1
Honey	-	1
Jam (Blackcurrant)	-	1
Jam (Damson)	-	1
Jam (Strawberry)	-	1
Margarine	-	4
Marmalade	-	6
Mandarin	1	-
Marzipan	-	1
Mayonnaise	-	2
Milk (Evaporated)	1	-
Mincemeat	-	2
Mustard	-	1
Preserves	2	2
Pepper (White)	1	-
Peanut Butter	-	1
Pickle	-	1
Sauce	-	1
Sausages	-	4
Saccharin	-	1
Salad Cream	-	1
Soft Drinks	-	12
Suet	-	1
Syrup	1	-
Tea	1	1
Tangerine	1	-
Totals Carried Forward	14	102

	Taken in Witham Urban District	Taken outside Urban District on Premises of Wholesalers who supply Shops within Urban District
<u>Totals Brought Forward</u>	14	102
Tomato Ketchup	-	2
Tomatoes (Peeled)	1	-
Table Jelly	1	3
 TOTALS	 16	 107

All the samples were found, on analysis, to be satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS -- MILK SAMPLES.

Taken in Witham U.D -- January to December, 1959.

Number of Samples taken:	124
Number of Samples satisfactory:	120
Number of Samples unsatisfactory:	4

The four samples shown above as unsatisfactory were reported by the public analyst to be deficient in milk fat.

Follow-up 'Appeal to Cow' samples were taken in each case, and the results of analysis of these samples indicated that the deficiencies in milk fat were due to natural causes. Consequently no legal proceedings were taken, but the milk producers concerned were advised to take steps to effect an improvement in the quality of the milk produced.

Condemnation of Food (other than Meat).

Long standing contact with the local food establishments has resulted in regular notification to the Public Health Department of all unfit and suspected foods. A considerable quantity is voluntarily surrendered for condemnation in this manner. No unfit food was found during routine inspections. The Department takes possession of all food surrendered and arranges for its disposal at the refuse tip. 52 tons. 3 cwts. 2 qrs. 10 lbs., of various foods were dealt with in this way during 1959. Of this total 52 tons were of oranges from a shipload conditionally admitted at the Port of London for sorting and repacking prior to sale. The work of sorting over 1,000 tons of oranges was done at a Witham factory under the supervision of the Public Health Department.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Following the Council's decision, in 1955, to participate in the Essex Smoke Plan organised by the County Council, routine recordings commenced on 1/1/1957. The plan is designed to assess the general degree of pollution and the effect on the County of the highly industrial Thameside and Metropolitan areas.

In Witham, the following instruments have been installed:-

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Witham (No. 1 Site) West: | One Deposit gauge. | Commenced recording 1/1/19 |
| | One Lead Peroxide | |
| | Instrument. | Commenced recording 1/1/19 |
| 2. Witham (No. 2 Site) | One Daily Instrument | |
| Central: | (Smoke and SO ₂). | Commenced recording 1/1/19 |
| 3. Rivenhall: | One Daily Instrument | |
| | (Smoke and SO ₂). | Commenced recording 1/1/19 |

These stations lie roughly along the line of the prevailing wind and will constitute part of the main chain of stations throughout the County.

The year's recording was interrupted by shortage of staff, and figures for 1959 are therefore incomplete. It is proposed to include them with those for 1960, in the Annual Report for that year, when issued. The general level of atmospheric pollution in the district remained low, but the appreciable increase in recorded deposit during wet weather indicates the possibility that a stream of low-density high-level pollution from distant sources in the west may normally pass across this part of the county from south and west to north and east.

Several minor instances of smoke emission from local furnace stacks were referred to the respective managements, and improvements effected.

No Smoke Control Areas were declared during the year.

STAFF.

Mr. H. Batteson, Additional Public Health Inspector since 1955 left in August to take up another appointment in Leicestershire. Mr. Batteson was a loyal and conscientious colleague, essentially practical in outlook, and had performed much valuable work for the Council during his service in Witham. His post was filled by Mr. D. C. Young, who commenced duty in October.

Mr. M. G. Blizzard, Junior Clerical Assistant, left in February, 1955 to perform his period of national service with the Royal Army Pay Corps. Mr. Blizzard, who came to the Department from school, had already completed two years of study with a view to qualifying as a Public Health Inspector, and

it is hoped that he will resume his appointment and training on release from H. M. Forces. As a partial replacement Mrs. B. E. Franklin was appointed in June as temporary shorthand/typist, but as she is available for part-time only, the pressure on the clerical and recording work of the Department has not been fully eased.

The labour establishment of the Department was reduced by two part-time labourers during the year, and continued to be subject to frequent staff changes, with resulting disturbance of routine. It is to the credit of the men employed that the services have been maintained efficiently. The work they are called upon to do is arduous, dirty, sometimes unpleasant, and exposed to all extremes of weather conditions. I would especially commend the loyal service of Mr. T. Thorpe, the Sewage Works Manager, and Mr. J. Razey, the Refuse Foreman.

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December, 1959 were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Senior Clerical Assistant.
Junior Clerical Assistant (Joined H.M.Forces - February.
Part-time Shorthand Typist (Commenced June).

Cleansing:

- 1 Foreman.
- 1 Tip-Chargehand/Relief Driver.
- 1 Refuse Loader/Chargehand.
- 2 Driver/Loaders.
- 1 Relief Driver/Loader.
- 1 Gulley Emptier Driver.
- 3 Refuse Loaders.
- 1 Tiphand.
- 1 Gulley Emptier Attendant.
- 1 Labourer (Part-time).

Sewage
Disposal:

- 1 Works' Manager.
- 1 Chargehand.
- 1 Fitter-Attendant.
- 4 Labourers.

Other: 1 Disinfector/Rodent Operative (Part-time).

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 41 years.

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1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general consideration of the subject.

2. The second part is devoted to a detailed examination of the various cases which have been brought before the Court.

3. The third part is devoted to a consideration of the principles which should govern the Court in its decision.

4. The fourth part is devoted to a consideration of the various arguments which have been advanced in support of the different views.

5. The fifth part is devoted to a consideration of the various objections which have been raised against the different views.

6. The sixth part is devoted to a consideration of the various conclusions which have been reached by the different Courts.